



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

WISCONSIN RESTAURANT CHAIN AND OWNER CHARGED WITH EMPLOYING AND HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS

MILWAUKEE— A Wisconsin restaurant chain and its owner have been charged for hiring illegal aliens to work in the restaurants and providing them with fake identity documents, the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced yesterday that Julie's Café, LLC had been charged with a pattern and practice of employing illegal aliens, and its co-owner Stephen Metzler was charged with harboring illegal aliens.

From 1998 until on or about June 15, 2004, Julie's Café, which has two restaurants in Green Bay, Wis., and one restaurant in DePere, Wis., was engaged in a pattern and practice of hiring illegal aliens, according to court documents. Julie's Café is owned by Stephen Metzler and his wife. Julie's Café regularly employed illegal aliens who were required to purchase false identification documents from the owners in order to work. The false identification documents included fraudulent social security cards and birth certificates of United States citizens. The aliens were paid in cash and the fee for the false identity was deducted from their wages. Metzler harbored the illegal aliens by providing them with employment at the Julie's Cafés.

"We believe Julie's Café and its owner were deliberately flaunting the immigration laws of this country by hiring illegal aliens and providing those workers with bogus identity documents," said Brian Falvey, resident agent-in-charge of the Milwaukee ICE office. "ICE will use all of its authorities to investigate these types of violations."

If convicted, Metzler faces a maximum term of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Julie's Café, LLC faces a maximum fine of \$3,000 per employed alien.

The Green Bay Police Department and the Social Security Administration assisted in the investigation. Prosecution of this case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Tracy M. Johnson.

The public is cautioned that an information is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute interference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government established his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.